



Earth Sabbath Celebration 25 January 2011
Community UCC, Raleigh, NC

7pm Arrival - Welcome and Introductions of those participating (done by Steve)

7:10 Getting acquainted mixer(s) Interconnections/Networking (Tama)

7:30 Worship Celebration

Call to Worship: Honoring the Four Directions - Native American Ritual (Steve,Tama, Carl, Kathy)

We stand in a circle, holding hands, consciously honoring our interconnectedness with each other and all life.

We now wish, at the start of our journey together today, to invoke the gifts and energies of the different directions and different aspects of creation and to ready ourselves to receive them.

Dropping hands now, we turn first to the East.

East -Yellow - Eagle

Illumination. Vision. Place of new beginnings. The ability to be childlike, here and now. The season of spring.

We ask for illumination and guidance, for new beginnings, for the ability to be childlike and fully present, here and now. We call upon our brother, the Eagle, to carry messages throughout the web of life and with divine spirit so we may experience being totally connected.

South - Red / Green - Rabbit, Mouse, Deer

Life, growth and healing. Being young. Generosity, love and trust, interconnectedness. Summer.

Help us receive the messages of the east in a state of innocence and grace, of openness and vulnerability. We desire to take our rightful place with earth and all of our brothers and sisters. We receive the energy of the south and respect and take care of what we receive.

West - Black - Bear

Strength, Introspection into life's meaning. Inner knowing. Acceptance of our true self. Middle age. Fall.

Give us strength so we can take the illumination and lessons we have learned in humility, and apply them in our daily life with courage.

North - White - Buffalo

Wisdom and purification. Fulfillment and completion. Detachment, letting go. Connection with our elders, our ancestors. Winter.

Give us wisdom to apply our learning with strength and detachment for the purpose of helping our people. We receive the energy of the north respectfully and gratefully.

Great Spirit, Great Mystery, The One

We surrender to that from which everything comes and returns, that sustains all Life.

With our circle complete, we say thank you three times.

Closing

We thank the energies of the East (pause and face each direction), South, West and North for bringing us together and allowing us to sing the Song of Life. And we release all the energies we called upon to return home with our gratitude and blessing.

Chant: Guitar - Mike Schafale

COME HOLY SPIRIT

SEND US YOUR BLESSING

RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH

(same tune as Taize: Come Lord Jesus)

Song: FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH (words printed sung by all) Guitar - Mike Schafale

Introduction of the FOUR ELEMENTS OF CREATION (Steve)
Learning and practicing the Purification Breaths

Nature Meditations: Video of Seven Visual Poems (6 minutes)

Scripture and Poems:

1.) Psalm 24 declares, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it."

Poem: "Mother Earth" by Henry Van Dyke (Steve)

2.) Paul, Romans 8:22 says, "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now."

Poem: "The Pain of the Earth" by George William Russell (Carl)

3.) Qu'ran 26:151,152 counsels, "And follow not the bidding of those who are extravagant who make

mischief on the land and mend not their ways."

Poem: "Earth's Answer" by William Blake

FAITH DECLARATION: The Assisi Declarations - Christian Declaration by Father Lanfranco Serrini. Minister General, OFM Conv. (Steve)

PRAYER TIME: (Tama) spoken - silence - prayers of concern or joy by those gathered (10 minutes)

SHARING OF THE WORK WE ARE ENGAGED IN - (affiliation with a
group/congregation/organization)

COMMISSIONING TO EMPOWER THE WORK TOWARD HEALING THE EARTH
(Steve&Kathy) (there is a script for this)

SONG: (Steve and Mike on guitars) "GOING WITH GOD"

CLOSING CIRCLE: (Steve) FROM YOU I RECEIVE
TO YOU I GIVE
TOGETHER WE SHARE
FROM THIS WE LIVE (sung with body movements)